

20. (Once Amended) The call forwarding system of claim 18, wherein the approval logic comprises an interactive voice response unit for generating a verbal message soliciting the approval for the directing of the calls.

21. (Once Amended) The call forwarding system of claim 18, wherein call forwarding is not activated if the approval for the directing of the calls is not obtained.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically forwarding calls when the approval is obtained.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-22 are pending, in which new claim 22 is added, and claims 1 and 18 are amended. Care was exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

The Office Action mailed November 21, 2002 rejected claims 1-6, 10 and 18-21 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Lung et al.* (US 6,292,549 B1) in view of *Solomon et al.* (US 5,361,295) and claims 7-9 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Lung et al.* (US 6,292,549 B1) in view of *Solomon et al.* (US 5,361,295) and further in view of *Yamadera et al.* (US 5,444,477).

Allowance of claims 11-17 is noted with appreciation.

Independent method claim 1 recites “contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for the request to forward calls from the first destination to the second destination.”

Independent system claim 18 recites “contacting the second destination **to obtain approval** for the request to direct the calls **from the first destination to the second destination.**”

In contrast, *Lung et al.* discusses forwarding caller ID information with a forwarded call, and fails to teach any method for **obtaining approval** for forwarding calls from the destination to which the calls are forwarded (see e.g. column 8, lines 14-30), as acknowledged by the Office Action (page 2, item 2).

The Office Action, therefore, cites *Solomon et al.*, column 11, lines 30-55 as disclosing “the method of contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the second destination,” but there is no approval of a request to forward the calls from a **first** destination to a **second** destination. Instead the calls are directed to a single destination, i.e. the destination of “a subscriber (doctor) with an unpublished telephone number” (*Solomon et al.* Column 11, lines 31-32). *Solomon et al.*, relates to a classified advertisement system, which sets up calls in which the parties can maintain mutual anonymity (see e.g. column 2, lines 21-33). In the second embodiment of *Solomon et al.* a system providing only one-way anonymity is disclosed, in which an anonymous subscriber having an unpublished telephone number, such as a doctor, can screen callers. However, even in this embodiment of *Solomon et al.*, there is no teaching or suggestion of obtaining approval for a request to forward calls from a **first** destination to a **second** destination distinct from the first destination, as the call destination remains the same throughout the process, i.e. a subscriber having an unpublished telephone number, although the subscriber may choose whether calls are screened or connected directly at any given time (see, for example, column 11, lines 20-37).

Therefore, neither *Lung et al.* nor *Solomon et al.*, taken separately or in combination, teach or suggest “contacting the second destination **to obtain an approval** for the request to

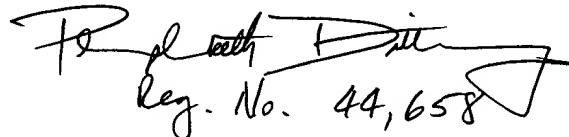
forward calls **from the first destination to the second destination**" or "contacting the second destination **to obtain approval** for the request to direct the calls **from the first destination to the second destination.**" and the rejection of claims 1-6, 10 and 18-21 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7-9 are dependent on claim 1, and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. The rejection of claims 7-9 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Lung et al.* in view of *Solomon et al.* and further in view of *Yamadera et al.* is therefore respectfully traversed. *Yamadera et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of either *Lung et al.* or *Solomon et al.*, as it relates only to a video telephone having "secretary terminals" as well as "executive terminals," see e.g. column 2, lines 34-48, as cited in the Office Action.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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